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An ARCEC Monthly Publication

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Counterpoise Editor - Susan Robins AF6LJ

Field Day 2013



The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon held Field Day at Santee Lakes in the Padre Dam Water District parking lot, warm weather and a light breeze greeted participants and visitors on a typical Southern California day. Club volunteers built the field day site the day before leaving only a few tasks for the following morning, everything was in place and ready to go well before the start of Field Day at 11:00 AM local time.

The club ran 4A configuration this year with our GOTA station on 2-meters. HF was well represented with daytime operations on 40 through 10 meters. The 10 meter

operating position was also doing double duty as our 6 meter station.

Radio equipment provided by members for the event spanned fifty years of technological history. Pat WA6MHZ club president provided a few pieces of vintage gear from the Crest Radio Museum. The antennas made available to the operators covered all bands from 80 through 2 meters. The club's 100' tower was home to a 3-element multiband yagi and a 2 meter vertical along with an 80 meter dipole.

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ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHz Repeater	440 MHz Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 220..480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



The 2 portable military towers had 2, and 3 element multiband yagi antennas, a G5RV and a 6 meter vertical.

Attendance was down this year and in spite of the poor propagation conditions over 390 contacts were made. There were a few hardware challenges to overcome which contributed to the lower number of contacts made. Intermittent audio in the SR-400 plagued 20 meter operations for most of Field Day, and an intermittent connection on the 6 meter vertical limited use of the 6 /10 meter station. VSWR issues on the 2 wire antennas were solved later in the afternoon when one member stepped forward with a pair of tuners. Last and not least, a known rotor issue reared its head on Saturday when the 20 meter yagi became stuck.

Full details of our Field Day Operations will be available in the after action report posted to the club website. Pictures for this article were provided by various members, thank you to all who took pictures of the event. Most of all a big thank you goes out to all who set up, took down, provided other support, and everyone who took part in Field Day activities.

For more pictures visit our Shutterfly site at;
<http://wa6bgs.shutterfly.com/pictures>

The ARCEC YouTube Channel has 2013 Field Day videos the web address is;
<http://www.youtube.com/user/WA6BGSOOfficial>

Coming Next Month

At the August general meeting Andre Hansen K6AH will be giving a presentation on Hamnet Mesh networks. This wireless networking technology has applications in EMCOM among other uses. The technology uses Linksys routers with specially modified firmware to allow the routers to connect to each other forming a wide area network. This presentation should be very informative. This new means of passing traffic is catching on, find out what it is all about. See you this coming August 8th For more information on the Hamnet Mesh network see; <http://hsmm-mesh.org/>

Next month is also the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon annual picnic. This year we will be holding our picnic at Chollas Lake Park in San Diego. The date for the picnic is August 10th Chollas Lake Park, see The Secretary's Ramblings column on page-4 for more information.



Arri Kids Day

Edited by Susan Robins AF6LJ, pictures and content provided by Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ

ARCEC Once again put on an ARRL Kids Day event out at Santee Lakes Pat WA6MHZ posted a recap of the event complete with pictures, some of which are seen here to the left and below. Kids day is an event designed provide an introduction into amateur radio with the goal of bringing new blood into the hobby. At the same time a Boy Scout radio merit badge class was held with instruction given by Scoutmaster Joe N6YPC with Pat assisting.



A number of stations were worked including stations participating in Kids Day, as Pat put it, "our kids worked their kids". To read about our club's Kids Day activities and of others who participated in Kids Day go to;

<http://forums.grz.com/showthread.php?394906-KIDS-DAY-is-this-Saturday!!!-June-15th!>

And visit our YouTube at; <http://www.youtube.com/user/WA6BGSOOfficial?feature=watch>



About The Editor

My name is Sue Robins, I became licensed in August of 2008 after finding out the code requirement had been dropped. For me this was a good thing, as hard as I might try I never could get it but I sure loved electronics. I grew up in a somewhat progressive family and was able to pursue whatever hobbies I could, electronics became my hobby of choice. I made electronics my career until the hand of fate put a stop to it. I have worked in electronics for 21 years as a technician, mostly an RF tech, both in manufacturing and in two-way radio, my love for my former career was second only to my love of the hobby. I have known of ARCEC for a very long time and earlier this year I decided to join.

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Secretary's Ramblings

By Paul Thompson – KJ6BYF

Monthly Disclaimer: This is a recap of the activities of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. I will be reporting the highlights of the General Meeting and the Board of Directors meeting. Please note that this column is not the official minutes of any meeting. I might even throw in a few of my own editorial comments here and there. When I do that I will let you know that they are my comments and only my comments! OK! Here we go...

April-May-June-July Highlights:

I need to do some catching up since the last published column. The program at the April meeting was about the Swain's Island DXpedition in 2012. The program was presented by Arnie (N6HC). The program at the May meeting was presented by Marty Woll (N6VI) about emergency power. Marty is the Vice-Director for the ARRL's Southwestern Division.

The June meeting was all about Field Day preparation.

The July meeting was a recap of Field Day 2013 by Joseph (KI6UPY). Joseph was given a commemorative book of pictures from Field Day for a job well done.

The club picnic will be held on August 10th at Chollas Lake Park, 6350 College Grove Drive. Take the 94 Freeway east and exit on Broadway/College Avenue. Turn right on College Avenue and then left on College Grove Drive. The entrance is on the right, just past College Grove Way.

Start My Comments:

I'm going to say this one more time. It's time to get involved in the club. If you don't like what is happening, get involved and change it! When nomination and voting time comes around nominate more than one person for each of the officer positions. Instead of 4 or 5 board nominations, let's shoot for twelve! That's 2 per board position. Then get out the vote! You **CAN** make a difference.

End My Comments.

Busted QSO's:

No one's yelling yet! It seems my record is intact. I welcome any suggestions that will help make this column better. Please email them to secretary@wa6bgs.us.

Until next time...

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I heard of the need for a Counterpoise editor, since I am computer and software literate I decided to try my hand at it. There has been a learning curve involved and Joe W6VMX, the club's past Counterpoise editor has been very helpful. I would like to take the opportunity to put out a call for content, anybody who has anything they wish to see in Counterpoise please feel free to pass it along. We have a new column by the club secretary Paul Thompson this month, and there will be more content to come in the coming months. Suggestions are always welcome, comments, suggestions content for Counterpoise can be sent to;

counterpoise@wa6bgs.us

Getting started with software defined radio

Interested software defined radio? Well there is a low cost way to get started, a way to get your feet wet and not spend 3 or 4 paychecks. Over at Hack-A-Day they have a short article with links to get you started on the cheap. <http://hackaday.com/page/2/?s=Software+defined+radio>